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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,338	03/01/2002	John p. Ruckart	010417	4121
36192 7590 09/16/2008 CANTOR COLBURN LLP - AT&T 20 Church Street 22nd Floor Hartford, CT 06103				
EXAMINER				
HASHEM, LISA				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2614				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/086,338

**Applicant(s)**

RUCKART, JOHN P.

**Examiner**

LISA HASHEM

**Art Unit**

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-22 in the RCE filed on 6-20-2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6-10, 12, 13, and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,418,309 by Moon et al, hereinafter Moon in view of Dutta.

Regarding claim 6, Moon discloses a method of handling an incoming call (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 27) to a telecommunications device (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (Fig. 1, 10; col. 3, line 53 – col. 4, line 41) from a calling party (i.e. caller) to a called party (i.e. user of the portable intelligent communications device) (col. 5, line 64 – col. 6, line 6), the method comprising:

receiving one or more parameters of a hold function,

wherein the parameters include a user input predetermined time period (Fig. 4: Meeting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63) during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 6, lines 1-16; col. 7, lines 10-25), the user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a scheduling

program (i.e. calendar/to do list software application; Fig. 3, 48; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63);

if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. called party is not in meeting mode) (col. 7, lines 10-30), directly ringing a called party device (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (col. 1, lines 37-44);

if the hold function is enabled (i.e. meeting mode is set; col. 7, lines 10-30), automatically answering the call if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters of the hold function and placing the call on hold (col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 6, lines 6-13);

playing a message to the calling party that the call has been placed on hold (col. 6, lines 6-13), the automatically answering the call and placing the call on hold being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (i.e. meeting mode of operation is activated automatically through a calendar/to do list software application (Fig. 3, 48); the operation answers the call automatically and the operation places the call on hold) (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 27; col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 7, lines 10-30); and connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call (col. 6, lines 6-13).

Moon discloses a user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold. However, Moon does not disclose a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold.

Dutta discloses a method of handling an incoming call to a telecommunications device (i.e. mobile telephone) (Fig. 2, 200; col. 3, lines 27-50) from a calling party (i.e. caller) to a called party (i.e. user of mobile telephone) (col. 2, lines 21-36), the method comprising: receiving one or more parameters of a hold function, wherein the parameters include an environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 5, lines 25-39), and a list (i.e. list of selected callers) including at least one predetermined potential calling party (i.e. important caller) from whom incoming calls are placed on hold (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 1-24; col. 5, lines 60-67), the environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a Bluetooth server (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 25-59); if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. calling party is not in a designated environment), directly ringing a called party device (i.e. mobile telephone) (col. 3, lines 8-13; col. 6, lines 2-13); if the hold function is enabled (col. 5, lines 40-50), if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters of the hold function and automatically placing the call on hold (col. 5, lines 51-62), the placing the call on hold being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (col. 5, lines 64-67); and connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call (col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moon to include a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold as taught by Dutta. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification of Moon to notify the

telecommunications device of an important calling party, such as using the list of Dutta, to the telecommunications device of Moon so the telecommunications device of Moon can automatically determine if the incoming call should be placed on hold based on the identity of the calling party. The benefit of a list of important calling parties is to connect an important calling party to a called party when the called party is in a meeting and can not disturb others.

Regarding claim 7, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function (col. 5, lines 51-53; col. 7, lines 10-42).

Regarding claim 8, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 13; col. 4, lines 36-41; col. 5, lines 24-30 and lines 51-53; col. 6, lines 17-24; col. 7, lines 10-42).

Regarding claim 9, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses alerting the called party of the incoming call (col. 6, lines 6-13).

Regarding claim 10, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses connecting the calling party to a voicemail system when the called party does not answer the call within a predetermined time period (Fig. 4: Meeting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 6, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 12, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses playing a message to the calling party includes playing a pre-recorded message stored in a memory device resident on the telecommunications device (col. 6, lines 6-10).

Regarding claim 13, the method of claim 6, wherein Dutta discloses connecting the call to a voicemail system when the called party presses a button on the telecommunications device (col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 2).

Regarding claim 17, Moon discloses an apparatus (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (Fig. 1, 10; col. 3, line 53 – col. 4, line 41) comprising:  
means for receiving one or more parameters of a hold function,  
wherein said parameters include a user input predetermined time period (Fig. 4: Meeting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63) during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 6, lines 1-16; col. 7, lines 10-25), and  
at least one potential calling party (i.e. incoming caller) from whom incoming calls are placed on hold (col. 5, line 64 – col. 6, line 6), the user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a scheduling program (i.e. calendar/to do list software application; Fig. 3, 48; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63);  
means for directly ringing a called party device (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (col. 1, lines 37-44) if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. called party is not in meeting mode) (col. 7, lines 10-30);  
means for automatically answering a call placed by a calling party (i.e. caller) to a called party (i.e. user of the device) if the hold function is enabled (i.e. meeting mode is set; col. 7, lines 10-30) and placing the call on hold, if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters and  
placing the call on hold (col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 6, lines 6-13), the automatically answering the call and placing the call on hold (col. 6, lines 6-13) being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (i.e. meeting mode of

operation is activated automatically through a calendar/to do list software application (Fig. 3, 48); the operation answers the call automatically and the operation places the call on hold) (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 27; col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 7, lines 10-30);

means for playing a message to the calling party that the call has been placed on hold (col. 6, lines 6-13) and

means for connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call (col. 6, lines 6-13).

Moon discloses a user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold. However, Moon does not disclose a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold.

Dutta discloses an apparatus (i.e. mobile telephone) (Fig. 2, 200; col. 3, lines 27-50) (col. 2, lines 21-36), comprising:

means for receiving one or more parameters of a hold function, wherein said parameters include an environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 5, lines 25-39), and a list (i.e. list of selected callers) including at least one predetermined potential calling party (i.e. important caller) from whom incoming calls are placed on hold (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 1-24; col. 5, lines 60-67), the environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a Bluetooth server (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 25-59); means for directly ringing a called party device (i.e. mobile telephone) if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. calling party is not in a designated environment) (col. 3, lines 8-13; col. 6, lines 2-13);



means for automatically answering a call placed by a calling party (i.e. caller) to a called party (i.e. user of the mobile telephone) if the hold function is enabled (col. 5, lines 40-50) and placing the call on hold (col. 5, lines 64-67), if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters and placing the call on hold (col. 5, lines 51-62), the placing the call on hold being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (col. 5, lines 64-67); and means for connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call (col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moon to include a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold as taught by Dutta. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification of Moon to notify the apparatus of an important calling party, such as using the list of Dutta, to the apparatus of Moon so the apparatus of Moon can automatically determine if the incoming call should be placed on hold based on the identity of the calling party. The benefit of a list of important calling parties is to connect an important calling party to a called party when the called party is in a meeting and can not disturb others.

Regarding claim 18, the apparatus of claim 17, wherein Moon discloses means for determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function (col. 5, lines 51-53; col. 7, lines 10-42).

Regarding claim 19, the apparatus of claim 17, wherein Moon discloses means for determining whether the called party has pressed a button on a telecommunications device to

enable a hold function (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 13; col. 4, lines 36-41; col. 5, lines 24-30 and lines 51-53; col. 6, lines 17-24; col. 7, lines 10-42).

Regarding claim 20, the apparatus of claim 17, wherein Moon discloses means for alerting the called party of the incoming call (col. 6, lines 6-13).

Regarding claim 21, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon discloses the receiving one or more parameters of the hold function is performed via a web interface (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 13; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 51-53; col. 6, lines 17-24).

Regarding claim 22, the apparatus of claim 17, wherein Moon discloses the means for receiving one or more parameters of the hold function receives the one or more parameters via a web interface (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 13; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 51-53; col. 6, lines 17-24).

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Dutta, as applied to claim 6, and in further view of Okun.

Regarding claim 11, the method of claim 6, wherein Moon in view of Dutta do not disclose playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node of a telecommunications network.

Okun discloses a telecommunications network (see Figure 1a; section 0013), comprising: a services node or serving MSC (Figure 1A, 118) for: directly ringing a called party device if a hold function is not enabled (i.e. the call is completed) (section 0040); determining whether an incoming call placed to a telecommunications device (Figure 1A, 126) by a calling party should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by a user of the

telecommunications device according to an incoming call hold service if the hold function is enabled (section 0040), the determining based on a user input during which the incoming call is placed on hold (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); playing a message to the calling party that the call has been placed on hold (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); and connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call (section 0040; section 0053).

Wherein Okun discloses playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node (i.e. serving MSC; Figure 1A, 118) of a telecommunications network (section 0057; section 0061).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moon in view of Dutta to include playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node of a telecommunications network as taught by Okun. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification of Moon in view of Dutta to inform a calling party that a called party will answer the call utilizing the mobile switching center of Okun, to the method of Moon in view of Dutta so the method of Moon in view of Dutta can store a recording in a telecommunications network. The benefit of storing a recording at a system level is to minimize program code located within the telecommunications device of the calling party.

5. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Dutta in further view of Okun.

Regarding claim 14, Moon discloses a telecommunications system (Fig. 2; Fig. 4) comprising:

directly ringing a called party device (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (Fig. 1, 10; col. 3, line 53 – col. 4, line 41) if a hold function is not enabled (i.e. called party is not in meeting mode) (col. 7, lines 10-30);

determining whether an incoming call (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 27) placed to a telecommunications device (i.e. portable intelligent communications device) (Fig. 1, 10) by a calling party (i.e. caller) should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by a user of the telecommunications device (col. 6, lines 6-13) according to an incoming call hold service if the hold function is enabled (i.e. meeting mode is set; col. 7, lines 10-30), the determining based on a user input predetermined time period (Fig. 4: Meeting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63) during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 6, lines 1-16; col. 7, lines 10-25), the user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a scheduling program (i.e. calendar/to do list software application; Fig. 3, 48; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63); placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered (col. 6, lines 6-13), the placing the call on hold being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (i.e. meeting mode of operation is activated automatically through a calendar/to do list software application (Fig. 3, 48); the operation answers the call automatically and the operation places the call on hold) (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 27; col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 16-30 and lines 50-63; col. 7, lines 10-30);

playing a message to the calling party that the call has been placed on hold (col. 6, lines 6-13) and

connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call (col. 6, lines 6-13).

Moon discloses the portable intelligent communications device performing the hold function and a user input predetermined time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold. However, Moon does not disclose a system comprising a home location register, services node, and mobile switching center implementing the hold function and a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold.

Dutta discloses a telecommunications system (Figures: 1, 2, 6), comprising: a services node (Fig. 7, 701; i.e. computer system; col. 6, lines 14-17; col. 6, line 53 - col. 7, line 9) for: directly ringing a called party device (i.e. mobile telephone) (col. 3, lines 8-13; col. 6, lines 2-13) if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. calling party is not in a designated environment); determining whether an incoming call placed to a telecommunications device (i.e. mobile telephone) (Fig. 2, 200; col. 3, lines 27-50) by a calling party (i.e. caller) should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by a user of the telecommunications device according to an incoming call hold service if the hold function is enabled (col. 5, lines 40-50), the determining based on an environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold, (col. 5, lines 25-39), and a list (i.e. list of selected callers) including at least one predetermined potential calling party (i.e. important caller) from whom incoming calls are placed on hold (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 1-24; col. 5, lines 60-67), the environment during which the incoming call is placed on hold being obtained by interfacing with a Bluetooth server (col. 2, lines 21-36; col. 5, lines 25-59);

placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered (col. 5, lines 51-62), the placing the call on hold being performed without input from the called party at the time of the call (col. 5, lines 64-67); and connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call (col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moon to include a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold as taught by Dutta. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification of Moon to notify the telecommunications device of an important calling party, such as using the list of Dutta, to the telecommunications device of Moon so the telecommunications device of Moon can automatically determine if the incoming call should be placed on hold based on the identity of the calling party. The benefit of a list of important calling parties is to connect an important calling party to a called party when the called party is in a meeting and can not disturb others.

Moon in view of Dutta discloses a list including at least one predetermined potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold. However, Moon in view of Dutta do not disclose a system comprising a home location register, services node, and mobile switching center implementing the hold function.

Okun discloses a telecommunications system (see Figure 1a; section 0013), comprising a home location register (Figure 1A, 110) for storing a profile of a user of a telecommunications device (Figure 1A, 126), wherein the profile includes an indication of whether the user is a subscriber to an incoming call hold service implemented by the telecommunications system (i.e. a subscriber profile indicates determining whether a text or voice message is preferred for a

calling party in order to send a message to a calling party that is on hold) (section 0014; section 0036; section 0039; section 0040; section 0044; section 0077);

a services node or serving MSC (Figure 1A, 118) for:

directly ringing a called party device if the hold function is not enabled (i.e. the call is completed) (section 0040);

determining whether an incoming call placed to the telecommunications device by a calling party should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by the user of the telecommunications device according to the incoming call hold service if the hold function is enabled (section 0040), the determining based on a user input during which the incoming call is placed on hold (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); playing a message to the calling party that the call has been placed on hold (section 0048; section 0057; section 0061); and connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call (section 0040; section 0053); and a mobile switching center or originating MSC (Figure 1A, 102) for facilitating communication between the telecommunications device, the services node, and the home location register (section 0054).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moon in view of Dutta to include a telecommunications system comprising a home location register, services node, and mobile switching center implementing the hold function as taught by Okun. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification of Moon in view of Dutta to implement an incoming call hold function in a system, such as using the home location register, services node, and mobile switching center of Okun, to

the telecommunications system of Moon in view of Dutta so the telecommunications system of Moon in view of Dutta can handle an incoming call according to a calling party's profile. The benefit of handling incoming calls at a system level is to minimize program code located within the telecommunications device of the calling party.

Regarding claim 15, the system of claim 14 mentioned above, wherein Okun discloses the services node includes an enunciator or IVR (section 0057; section 0061).

Regarding claim 16, the system of claim 15 mentioned above, wherein Okun discloses the enunciator is for playing a message to a calling party when a call is placed on hold (section 0057; section 0061; section 0062).

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 Form.
7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Or faxed to:**

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or call:**

(571) 272-2600 (for customer service assistance)

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LISA HASHEM whose telephone number is (571)272-7542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.



If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Fan Tsang/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614  
/Lisa Hashem/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2614  
September 12, 2008